

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO
SUPPRESS THE TRIVIAL NAME "CASPICUS" HABLIZL,
1783 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE BINOMINAL COMBINATION
"COLYMBUS CASPICUS") (CLASS AVES)**

**Application submitted by the
Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the
International Ornithological Congress**

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)525)

Covering letter, with enclosure, dated 19th October, 1950, from Colonel R. Meinertzhagen, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, I beg to forward to you the annexed recommendation relating to the name *Colymbus caspicus* Hablizl, 1783, for favour of decision by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

The circumstances of the present case were described in a note published by Dr. E. Stresemann, a Member of the Standing Committee, in 1948 (Stresemann, 1948, *Ibis* **90** : 473-474), extracts from which are given in the Annexe to the application now submitted.

The specific action which the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to take is that it should : (1) use its plenary powers to suppress the trivial name *caspicus* Hablizl, 1783 (as published in the combination *Colymbus caspicus*) for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ; (2) place the trivial name *nigricollis* Brehm, 1831 (as published in the combination *Podiceps nigricollis*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* : and (3) place the trivial name *caspicus* Hablizl, 1783 (as published in the combination *Colymbus caspicus*) as proposed, under (1) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

ENCLOSURE

The trivial name comprised in the specific name "Colymbus caspicus" Hablizl, 1783, "Neue nordische Beyträge" 4 : 9

It is recommended that the above name should be made a *nomen rejectum* and that the trivial name comprised in the name currently accepted for this species, namely *Podiceps nigricollis* Brehm (C.L.), 1831, *Handb. Naturg. Vög. Deutschl.* : 963 ("Deutschland"), be made a *nomen conservandum*.

The name *Podiceps nigricollis* has been used for the Black-necked Grebe from 1831 to 1948. The circumstances of the present case have been discussed by Stresemann in a note entitled "The earliest description of the Black-necked Grebe" published in 1948 (*Ibis* 90 : 473-474), from which extracts have been made for the information of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and are submitted in the Annexe to the present application.

R. MEINERTZHAGEN : *Chairman of the Standing Committee.*

E. STRESEMANN : *Zoologisches Museum der Universität, Berlin.*

JOHN T. ZIMMER : *The American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

ANNEXE TO APPLICATION

Extract from a paper entitled "The earliest description of the Black-necked Grebe" (1948, "Ibis," 90 : 473-474)

Changes in scientific nomenclature are becoming increasingly unpopular among ornithologists, and rightly so. It is especially awkward if a name of long standing and of very frequent use has to be discarded under present rules in favour of a quite unknown one. I see, however, no way for avoiding supersession of *Podiceps nigricollis* Brehm, 1831, by *Podiceps caspicus* (Hablizl, 1783).

In his article "Bemerkungen in der persischen Landschaft Gilan und auf den Gilanischen Gebirgen in den Jahren 1773 und 1774," published in vol. 4 (1783) of Pallas's magazine "Neue Nordische Beyträge," Carl Hablizl on page 9 gave the following detailed description of a grebe which he had met by the end of November 1773 in the Bay of Enzeli, Caspian Sea, and which he proposed to call *Colymbus caspicus* : "Magnitudo Columbae domesticae, Rostrum plumbeum pollicare, Caput et reiquum corpus supra fusco nigricat. Gula et genae, lateraque colli superioris alba ; collum inferius gryseum. Pectus, abdomen et venter albo-argentea. Alae complicatae ad uropygium protensae. Uropygium infimum albo-nigroque vatiegatum. Remiges a prima ad sectum immaculatae, fuscae, a sexta ad decimum candidae, uno latere fusco maculatae, a decima vero ad vigesimam primam usque immaculatae, candidae. Tectrices alarum fuscae. Pedes et digiti interius cinereo-virescentes, exterius fusconigricantes. Oculorum irides, ut et palpebrae, rubrae."

That this bird was undoubtedly a Black-necked, and not a Slavonian, Grebe (in the synonymy of which the name *Colymbus caspicus* had been sunk by all previous authors, Ogilvie-Grant and Hartert), is proved by the colour of the inner primaries, which are always entirely dark in *P. auritus*, not partially white (candidae, uno latere fusco-maculatae).